Office of the Attorney General
Robert E. Cooper, Jr.

Department of Commerce and Insurance
Commissioner Leslie Shechter Newman

CONSUMER ALERT

Office of the Attorney General
P.O. Box 20207 Nashville, TN 37202-0207

Department of Commerce and Insurance
Division of Consumer Affairs
500 James Robertson Parkway Nashville, TN 37243

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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#08-20

CONTACT:
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(615) 741-5860

CONSUMERS SEEKING RESTITUTION FROM HEART DEFIBRILLATOR MANUFACTURER HAVE UNTIL APRIL 15 TO APPLY

Tennesseans seeking refunds in a multi-state case against Guidant Corporation for alleged faulty heart pacemaker/defibrillator devices have until April 15 to apply for restitution.

Consumers affected by the faulty Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillators (ICDs) may file complaints through Guidant's Warranty Supplement Program directly to:

E. Ross White
Assistant Director
Division of Consumer Affairs
Davy Crockett Building, Fifth Floor
500 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37243
Phone: (615) 532-8277
For in-state consumers: 1-800-342-8385
Fax: (615) 532-4994
web site: www.state.tn.us/consumer
e-mail address: Ross.White@state.tn.us

The ICD models of concern include: Ventak Prizm 2 DR ICD Model 1861 pacemaker, a CONTAK

RENEWAL Model H135 device or a CONTAK RENEWAL 2 Model H155 device, which were implanted up to and including, July 2005.

Guidant's warranty program provides consumers who wish to replace their Prizms with a new device at no cost and reimburses consumers up to $2,500 for out-of-pocket expenses incurred with the replacement. In addition**,** Guidant will send letters to consumers who have already participated in reimbursement program to inform them of potential additional reimbursement if they did not receive full refunds.

"If you took advantage of the warranty program but did not receive the full out-of-pocket expenses you applied for because they exceeded the $2,500 cap, you may still be able to recoup. Please read the letter carefully and follow up as soon as possible," said Mary Clement, Director of Consumer Affairs.